

## CLAIMS

1. A titanium dioxide powder having a rutile content of 80% or more and a BET specific surface area of 30 m<sup>2</sup>/g or more.

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2. The titanium dioxide powder according to claim 1, wherein the rutile content is 85% or more.

3. The titanium dioxide powder according to claim 1, obtained by a gaseous phase method using titanium tetrachloride as a raw material.

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4. The titanium dioxide powder according to claim 1, obtained by reacting titanium tetrachloride, oxygen gas, hydrogen gas, and steam in a gaseous phase.

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5. The titanium dioxide powder according to claim 1, obtained by reacting titanium tetrachloride, oxygen gas, hydrogen gas, and steam in a gaseous phase after preheating.

6. A method for producing a titanium dioxide powder comprising reacting a titanium tetrachloride gas, oxygen gas, hydrogen gas, and steam in a gas phase, characterized by supplying the steam in an amount equal to or greater than a chemically equivalent amount necessary for oxidizing all of the titanium tetrachloride gas.

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7. The method according to claim 6, wherein the steam is supplied in an amount of 100 to 2,000 l per 1 l of titanium tetrachloride gas.

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8. The method according to claim 6, wherein the titanium tetrachloride, oxygen

gas, hydrogen gas, and steam are reacted in a gaseous phase after preheating.

9. The method according to claim 6, wherein the titanium oxide powder has a BET specific surface area of 30 m<sup>2</sup>/g or more.

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10. The method according to claim 6, wherein the reaction is carried out at 750-950°C and the titanium oxide powder obtained has a rutile content of 80% or more.

11. The method according to claim 6, wherein the reaction is carried out at  
10 450-700°C and the titanium oxide powder obtained has a rutile content of 20% or more.